

## Message Text

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0175

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AHG MEETING, JULY 16, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT ITS JULY 16 MEETING, CHAIRED BY THE BELGIAN ACTING REP, AHG BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE INFORMAL OF JULY 15, (FULL REPORT MBFR VIENNA 165 AND 167), APPROVED THE PLENARY STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE US REP ON JULY 17 (TEXT SEPTTEL), AND BRIEFLY DISCUSSED PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE GIVEN BY NETHERLANDS RE (QUARLES) FOLLOWING THE LAST PLENARY SESSION OF THIS ROUND. UK REP NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT A REUTERS CORRESPONDANT APPEARED TO HAVE OBTAINED THE WESTERN INTERPRETATION OF THE EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL AND WAS SEEKING CONFIRMATION. UK REP ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD BRIEFED THE ROMANIAN REP ON THE LAST INFORMALS. NEXT AHG

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MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 19. END SUMMARY.

INFORMAL

2. THE AHG DISCUSSION OF THE JULY 15 INFORMAL, STARTED AT THE JULY 15 AHG MEETING, WAS RESUMED. NETHERLANDS REP POINTED OUT THAT SOVIET REP KHLESTOV HAD SAID, IN DISCUSSING THE ALL PARTICIPANTS FORMULA, THAT THE REAL QUESTION WAS WHETHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE SATISFIED BY A MERE COMMITMENT OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE. (SEE PARA 14 OF MBFR VIENNA 167). UK REP, IN AMPLIFICATION, NOTED THAT KHLESTOV HAD MADE THIS COMMENT AFTER ASKING WHETHER HE WOULD BE CORRECT IN INTERPRETING

ALLIED REMARKS TO MEAN THAT THE WEST WAS PROPOSING ALL DIRECT

PARTICIPANTS WOULD ASSUME FROM THE OUTSET ONLY AN OBLIGATION TO REDUCE.

UK REP SAID IT WAS UNCLEAR WHAT KHLESTOV HAD MEANT. KHLESTOV AGAIN APPEARED, DURING HIS SUMMING UP, ABOUT TO PRESENT THE IDEA THAT A MUTUAL OBLIGATION TO REDUCE WAS A POINT OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT, BUT HIS EASTERN COLLEAGUES URGED HIM TO STICK TO THE STANDARD LINE (MBFR VIENNA 167 - PARA 36). THUS UK REP SURMIZED THAT KHLESTOV MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FEEL HIS WAY TO POSITIVE POINTS HE COULD CITE UPON HIS RETURN TO MOSCOW. FOR EXAMPLE, KHLESTOV COULD SAY THAT IT WAS AGREED THAT ALL WERE COMMITTED FROM THE OUTSET TO REDUCE. WHILE KHLESTOV DID NOT SAY THAT THIS WAS COMMON GROUND, ROSE CONSIDERED THAT THE SOVIET REP MAY HAVE BEEN MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION.

3. NETHERLANDS REP SAID IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER KHLESTOV

RETURNED TO THIS PARTICULAR POINT IN THE AUTUMN. ITALIAN ACTING REP (TALIANI) SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE KHLESTOV'S QUESTION AMOUNTED TO MUCH, SINCE WHEN IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED, KHLESTOV NOTED THAT THE ALL-PARTICIPANTS COMMITMENT FAILED TO SPECIFY BOTH THE TIME AND THE SIZE OF INDIVIDUAL REDUCTIONS. US ACTING REP EMPHASIZED THAT WHEN KHLESTOV WAS ABOUT TO REPEAT THE MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS TO REDUCE IDEA IN HIS SUMMING UP, IT WAS KHLESTOV'S COLLEAGUES WHO TOLD HIM TO RAISE THE ISSUES OF TIME AND SIZE. IF KHLESTOV HAD NOT

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MADE THESE ADDITIONS, SAID ACTING US REP, HE WOULD HAVE INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH A COMMITMENT TO REDUCE IN PHASE 2 AND THUS MOVED AWAY FROM THE EASTERN POSITION THAT ALL MUST REDUCE FROM THE OUTSET.

PLENARY STATEMENT

4. AHG APPROVED WITH MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES THE PLENARY STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE US REP ON JULY 17. DURING THE AHG DISCUSSION,

UK REP OBJECTED TO THE USE OF THE WORD REDEPLOYMENT IN DESCRIBING US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS. ROSE SAID THAT THE ALLIANCE HAD NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION ON THE DISPOSITION OF REDUCED SOVIET FORCES. IT WOULD BE CORRECT TO SPEAK OF WITHDRAWAL OF US AND SOVIET FORCES, BUT REDEPLOYMENT INVOLVED TWO ACTS--WITHDRAWAL AND DISPOSITION OF THE FORCES OUTSIDE THE AREA--AND THUS EXCLUDES DISBANDMENT. GROUP AGREED TO USE THE WORD "WITHDRAWAL".

5. FRG REP (BEHREND) SAID THAT THE ALLIES HAD NOT YET AGREED THAT A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT WOULD CONTAIN A PROVISION ON THE SPECIFIC DIMENSIONS OF THE REDUCTIONS IN THE SECOND PHASE. UNDER PRESENT COUNCIL GUIDANCE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO AGREE ON THE TOTAL QUANTITIES TO BE REDUCED IN BOTH PHASES. DATA WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GET THE DIMENSIONS OF REDUCTIONS. US ACTING REP REPLIED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO FILL A LOGICAL HOLE IN THE ALLIED PROGRAM. AT THE LAST INFORMAL, EASTERN REPS HAD ASKED WHERE WAS THE COMMITMENT FROM INDIVIDUAL WESTERN STATES TO REDUCE BY SPECIFIC AMOUNTS. THE ALLIES HAVE TOLD THE EAST THAT THEY ARE UNWILLING TO SPECIFY INDIVIDUAL PHASE II CUTS, BUT THAT THE WEST IS IN A POSITION TO GIVE THE EAST CLARIFICATION ON OVERALL ALLIED MBFR REDUCTIONS. WHILE THERE IS NO SPECIFIC COUNCIL GUIDANCE, US ACTING REP NOTED THAT A TOTAL FIGURE IS IMPLICIT IN PRESENT GUIDANCE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THE ALLIES SHOULD GAIN THE ADVANTAGE WITH THE EAST OF BEING AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THEIR REDUCTION PROGRAM. FRG REP AGREED WITH LOGIC OF THESE REMARKS BUT SAID PRESENT GUIDANCE PROHIBITED THE AHG FROM NEGOTIATING ON THE DETAILS OF PHASE II. TO MAKE A COMMITMENT WOULD REQUIRE AGREEMENT ON THE COMMON CEILING AND ON OVERALL DATA. THERE WAS NOTHING WHICH REQUIRED THE LATTER. NETHERLANDS REP SAID THAT IF THE AHG NEEDED GUIDANCE TO FORMALIZE WHAT IT HAD SAID INFORMALLY, IT SHOULD MAKE THE REQUEST. HE DOUBTED THE EAST WOULD

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BE WILLING TO WRITE IN A FIGURE WHICH UNDERLINED THE SIZE OF THE ASYMMETRICAL CUTS. US ACTING REP NOTED THAT THE ALLIES HAD ALREADY PUT FORWARD THE 700,000 FIGURE AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE COMMON CEILING. IF THE EAST ACCEPTED IT, THE ALLIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE IT BACK. GROUP AGREED ON LANGUAGE THAT ALLIES HAD PROPOSED A SPECIFIC COMMON CEILING, WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE OVERALL DISMISSTIONS OF GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN BOTH PHASES.

PRESS CONFERENCE

6. UK REP SAID THAT SYDNEY WHALEY FROM REUTERS HAD GOTTEN THE ENTIRE EASTERN "FIRST STEP" REDUCTION PROPOSAL, PURPORTEDLY FROM WESTERN SOURCES, AND HAD ASKED THE UK DEL TO CONFIRM THE CONTENTS. WHALEY SAID THAT THE EAST HAD SUGGESTED RENAMING ITS SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL AS A FIRST REDUCTION STEP; THAT THE 20,000

INITIAL EAST REDUCTION FIGURE COULD BE DISCUSSED; THAT THE BULK OF REDUCTIONS COULD BE US AND SOVIET; THAT IMPLEMENTATION MIGHT BE STAGGERED; AND THAT REDUCTIONS COULD BE APPORTIONED BY EACH SIDE. UK REP SAID HIS DEL HAD REFUSED TO CONFIRM THE INFORMATION. ROSE WARNED THAT QUARLES SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS ALONG THESE LINES. IT WAS AGREED THAT QUARLES SHOULD TAKE THE LINE THAT HE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON PROPOSALS AND THAT HE WOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO CONFIRM EVEN BY INFERENCE THE EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL. AT THE FRG SUGGESTION, IT ALSO WAS AGREED THAT THE PRESS STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN GERMAN, WITH THE HEADING "UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION." COMMENT: REUTERS PUT OUT STORY ON JULY 17. KHLESTOV COMPLAINED VIGOROUSLY TO US REP AT FINAL PLENARY SAME MORNING. INTERNAL EVIDENCE APPEARS TO CONFIRM WEILAND'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD STORY FROM WESTERN SOURCE. END COMMENT.

7. NEXT AHG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 19. RESOR

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## Message Attributes

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